

The problem of administrating the Act in a country with so many vested interests, so many special hospitals and varying degrees of training is a great one. Already upwards of three years has elapsed since His Majesty the King signified his will in the old words "Le Roi le Veult," and still the regulations, the schemes for affiliation of hospitals with one another, and for—what is of deep interest to nurses outside the United Kingdom—reciprocity of registration are far from complete.

The New Zealand Government has been approached regarding reciprocity by the Secretary for State on behalf of the Nursing Council, and a reply has been sent, which we hope will be favourably received so that nurses trained and registered in the Dominion will be under no disadvantage when desiring to work in the Old Country.

Miss Maclean wishes to thank those subscribers who so kindly sent in copies of the April number, 1921.

Petition from Members to the Council

(From "Una," June 1, 1922.)

To the Editor.

Sir—In view of the interest which has been taken by the general public regarding the salaries and hours of work for nurses, the following petition, which has been received by the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, will be read with interest:—

"We, the undersigned members of the R.V.T.N.A., being representative of the majority of members of our Association, as shown by the postal vote recently taken on matters relating to the Nurses' Guild, desire the following to be made public:—

"1. That a large majority of the members of our Association are in no way in sympathy with the Nurses' Guild. We emphatically object to being classed with this body, or their propoganda as appears in the daily Press.

"2. As professional women, we do not consider the Arbitration Court the correct channel through which to improve the certificated nurses' conditions.

"3. Nurses in private hospitals are not dissatisfied with their conditions, as was shown by the recent inspection carried out by the Council of the R.V.T.N.A.

"4. Trained nurses' homes have been of great use in the past. We also have for seven years managed our own residential club, run on co-operative lines.

"5. The conditions for private nurses, viz., six consecutive hours of sleep and

two hours for recreation in the twenty-four hours, with a salary of £3 3s. per week, with board and residence, is satisfactory, and in proportion with what the general public can afford. We do not wish private nurses to become a luxury only available to the very wealthy.

"6. We are of the opinion that members of the Guild should cease to be members of the R.V.T.N.A., as they are antagonistic, in our opinion, to the best interests of the nursing profession."

The above was presented at the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

W. B. VANCE, President.

We are glad to reprint the above petition showing, as it does, the spirit of nursing has not yet died, and nurses are not out to take advantage of arbitration on lines of labour unions, and to make such exactions from the public as would entirely take away that feeling from true nurses of devotion to their patients' service, which makes them willing during the time of anxiety to give up rest and recreation if in doing so the patient has a better chance of recovery.

We do not altogether agree that the pay of £3 3s. is sufficient in all cases, and we do not think that a fixed fee is fair to all patients and to all nurses. Many can well afford more, and so enable a nurse to take less in others.